



Michigan National Organization for Women

Post Office Box 860
East Lansing, Michigan 48826
(517) 485-9687
www.michnow.org

November 17, 2009

Honorable Mark Corriveau, Chair
Michigan House Health Policy Committee
Anderson House Office Building
Lansing, MI

Dear Representative Corriveau and Members of the House Health Policy Committee:

Thank you for considering House Bills 4468, HB 4469, and HB 5043 requiring health occupation licensing disciplinary committees to permanently revoke, or deny application for, health occupation licenses when the licensee or applicant has been convicted of first, second, or third degree criminal sexual conduct.

Currently licensing disciplinary committees have an assortment of lesser penalties they can impose when faced with a licensee with a CSC I, II, or III conviction. Removing the option of licensing disciplinary committees to give a slap on the wrist instead of removing licensees from the practice of their health occupation is important to women's safety and security and the safety and security of their families and the general public. We support these bills and urge you to refer them for passage by the House.

We are concerned about the effect of prosecutors plea bargaining down from CSC I, II, or III to other related offenses not affected by these bills. This would let these bad actors remain in their professions and further threaten the public. We urge prosecutors, as part of any plea bargain, to insist that the accused give up any current health occupation license and not apply for any future health occupation license. This is especially important where the victim was identified through the accused's health occupation and where the accused used his or her health occupation's power and/or influence to commit CSC I, II, or III.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) is the largest, most comprehensive, multi-issue feminist advocacy group in the United States and Michigan.

Michigan NOW thanks you for the opportunity to comment on these bills.

Mary Pollock
Legislative Vice President
517-449-2386

NOW's purpose is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men.